

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize retired United States Air Force Colonel Carlyle "Smitty" Harris of Tupelo, Mississippi.

On this day in 1973, after nearly 8 years of being held as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, he was released to be reunited with his wife, Louise; his daughters, Robin and Carolyn; and his son, Lyle, who was born 1 month after he was captured.

Colonel Harris became a POW on April 4, 1965, when his F-105 Thunderchief was shot down by enemy fire while he was on a mission to attack a bridge known as the Dragon's Jaw, an important target in northern Vietnam. After he was captured, he was then transported to the well-known Hanoi Hilton.

Colonel Harris taught his fellow prisoners a vital way of communicating with each other through a method called the tap code. This gave the men the ability to communicate without speaking, establishing a chain of command and boosting morale. While he experienced cruelty, torture, and isolation, he was able to find solace in his faith in God, love for his country, and hope of seeing his family again.

Colonel Harris embodies the characteristics that make you proud to be an American.

Thank you, Colonel Harris, for your service. I join you in celebrating this happy anniversary of your homecoming.

PORTER RANCH

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the environmental tragedy affecting residents in Porter Ranch.

Just a few miles from my district, and until yesterday, methane gas continued to leak into the air from one of the wells, spewing 110,000 pounds of methane per hour. This leak began last October. The full health and environmental impacts of this unmitigated disaster may not be known for many years, and already it has displaced thousands of families and caused innumerable illnesses and property losses.

Today I am calling on the U.S. Department of Energy to lead a comprehensive investigation into what caused this leak, its inadequate response, and to provide recommendations for mitigating the damage and preventing future incidents. This tragedy must never be repeated.

Between Porter Ranch and Flint, Michigan, it is clear that both the government and the private sector are far from placing the priority we need on our families' health and their safety.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN PENNSYLVANIA

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I was honored to host Christa Mereen in Washington. Christa has competed in the Special Olympics as an athlete for 15 years. Recently, more than 300 athletes participated in the winter games in Pennsylvania, with 135 coaches and more than 1,000 volunteers.

Pennsylvania's Special Olympics includes many athletes from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, including Potter County athlete Denise Menderler. Denise is highly accomplished, having earned 110 medals, including many gold honors. Denise gives back to her community as a peer advocate and a Potter County Human Services Advisory Board member. Denise's story is just like so many who participate in the Special Olympics who rise above challenges and excel in sports, from skiing to figure skating, speed skating, and snow shoeing.

Mr. Speaker, on March 5 and 6, the skills of our Special Olympians will again be on display at the State Floor Hockey Tournament at Bald Eagle Area High School in my home district. I look forward to seeing them compete in person.

NORTH CAROLINA PANTHERS

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the NFC Champion North Carolina Panthers. I have the privilege of representing North Carolina's 12th Congressional District in Congress, home to the beloved Panthers.

Week after week, the Panthers gave their game their all and breezed through the season nearly undefeated. With each game came new rounds of support as the Carolina fan base swarmed to uncharted numbers. I am certain the Carolina Panthers put in long and hard hours of practice which led them to Super Bowl 50. The Panthers have had an amazing season.

I know I speak for all North Carolina fans when I say the Panthers did an amazing job making North Carolina proud to call them their home team. What a phenomenal trek to the Super Bowl.

To Carolina's own NFL MVP, Cam Newton, thanks for leading the charge and inspiring so many fans, young and old.

Based off this season's performance, I know that next year the Panthers will keep pounding all the way to Super Bowl LI and bring home the Lombardi Trophy.

Keep pounding.

UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS' 75TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the United Service Organizations, known to all of us as the USO.

For 75 years, the USO has supported and strengthened the life of our servicemembers and their families at home and throughout the more than 160 countries in the world.

I am deeply grateful for those who serve our Nation, as I have had loved ones proudly wearing our Nation's uniform, and still do.

USO goes above and beyond to adapt its programs to our servicemembers' needs. They boost morale by helping them connect with their families and their home while overseas, as well as assisting with the transition back to civilian life and providing support and care for the wounded and for the families of the fallen. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to pay tribute to the outstanding commitment of the USO and their excellent work over the last 75 years.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT'S 25 WOMEN YOU NEED TO KNOW

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to bring attention to the Tallahassee Democrat's 25 Women You Need to Know.

For 10 years, the Democrat has named 25 women who deserve recognition from our community. These women have not only excelled in their professional careers, but they also donate their time and talents toward volunteering and giving back to our community.

For the second year in a row, the paper is also naming five young women to watch: Bliss Wilson, Cassidy Craig, Jordyn Berrian, Micah Joyner, and Zenani D. Johnson. These young women are only in high school but already have impressive resumes, and I know they are going to go on to do great things.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Democrat for their service to our community in recognizing these women, and I applaud this year's 25 women and 5 young women on all of their accomplishments.

NEW OIL TAXES COST AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has proposed a new \$10-per-barrel tax on oil. That represents 24 cents in new taxes on every gallon of gas. That is right, 24 cents per gallon of new cost for families. When families are finally feeling the benefit of lower cost fuel, this President proposes a